

# ALASKAN TOKEN COLLECTOR

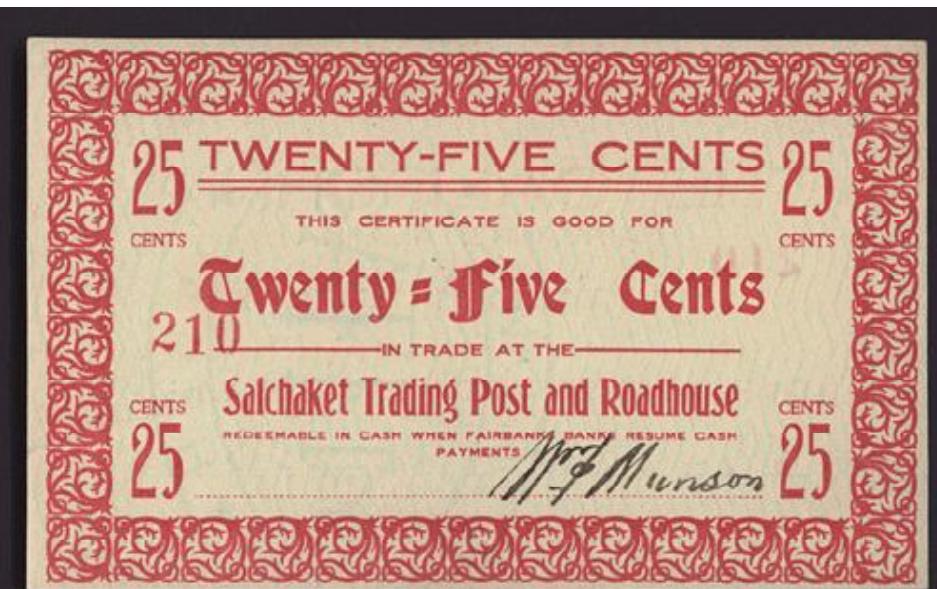
## POLAR NUMISMATIST

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VOLUME XXVI, No. 3.

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### ALASKA SCRIP BREAKS \$10,000



A previously unreported 25 Cents financial panic (circa 1907) scrip note from The California in Fairbanks and the Salchaket Trading Post and Roadhouse recently sold in a Lyn Knight auction (Chicago 2004 CPMX, February 26-29, lot #2122) for \$11,000 plus buyers fee (\$12,600). Described in the catalogue: "Red text on face, light purple text on back. One hand signature on face (Munson), two on back (Martin and Koon). Fully issued, not cancelled, and in choice condition. Additionally, the issuer was destroyed by fire in 1927. This piece, one of the great highlights of the Chet Krause Collection, offers prospective purchasers an incredible opportunity. Of extreme rarity and desirability, especially being a territorial issue; most likely unique."

In other currency news, a First National Bank of Fairbanks small size type 2 \$10 not in F-VF fold for \$18,400 in the March 15, 2004 Smythe sale (submitted by Alan Weinberg and Ron Benice).

North of 60°

South of 50°

# EDITOR'S COMMENTS PRICES REALIZED

We had planned on using the article on the facing page on the front page. But then the Alaska scrip selling for \$12,600 was a little more new worthy, don't you think! The selling price on this piece is astounding. But there has to be two bidders to push it that high.

On a recent trip to Anchorage, I visited both Bill Hamilton (Loose Change) and Roy Brown (Roy's Coins). It is always a pleasure to look at other dealers' stock.

I would like to call your attention to the auction lots included in this issue. There are some good tokens there, so take the time to examine the list carefully and take advantage of this opportunity.

The last page offers some items for sale. Firstly, "Flag Over the North." A great book for the history buff. We recently purchased a very large collection/store stock of Alaska books. If there is an Alaska book that you just can't find, drop us a note or email. We may just have it.

Finally, if you are tired of staplers that leave staples sticking out from the back of your 2x2s, then the last page has a stapler that will do the whole job for you. Our shipment is in the mail, and will be here shortly (or not so shortly based on recent performance at the PO).

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<b>Bering River</b> , \$10, B-1g	927.12
<b>Cleary</b> , W&W, 25¢, B-5a	56.00
<b>Katalla</b> , Ashland, 12½¢, B-1a	454.49
<b>Ketchikan</b> , Lotus, 12½¢, B-31e	31.00
<b>Kukak Bay</b> , \$10, B-1gi	667.12
<b>Kwiguk</b> , Alstrom, complete set	OB45.00NB
<b>Livengood (Brooks)</b> , M&G, 25¢, B-3a	785.00
<b>Long</b> , Willis, 25¢, B-2a,	51.00
<b>McGrath</b> , McGrath Pool Hall, 25¢, B-3a	715.00
<b>Nome</b> , Board of Trade, 12½¢, B-8g	157.50
<b>Quinhagak</b> , Jean, \$5 B-1d	76.00
<b>Seward</b> , Northern, 12½¢, B-8bii	28.38
<b>Seward</b> , Pioneer Club, 12½¢, B-12aii	67.00
<b>Skagway</b> , Mascot, 5¢, B-17b	21.55
<b>Valdez</b> , Knight Isl. Stockholder, brz. B-11a	586.49
<b>Yes Bay</b> , APF, 50¢, B-1c	735.12
<b>AYPE</b> 3 piece gold set	withdrawn

OB = Opening Bid   NB = No Bid   RL = relist

RNM = Reserve Not Met   R = Reserve

BIN = Buy it now

\* \* \* \* \*

## FREE SALMON

A recent AP news story, reported in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner announced that Valdez was going to attempt to lure tourists with the offer of a free salmon. The catch is, you have to drive the Alaska Highway.

If you do plan on driving the Highway this summer, stop at Buckshot Betty's restaurant in Beaver Creek, Yukon, just before you cross the border into Alaska. You can receive a coupon for "one headed, gutted, vacuum-sealed fish."

Your associate editor will be driving the Highway this summer. He has been told that if he does not get a coupon, to not bother coming back.



An older salmon token!

# 1993 ALASKA STATE MEDAL VARIETIES



While taking inventory this past January 1, I noticed that the 1993 one ounce silver proof-like medals seemed to have a slightly different finish. Upon closer examination, I discovered that some of the proof-like medals were struck with proof dies.

What first caught my eye were the cloudy surfaces on many of the proof-like medals. This is from being stored in the original PVC holders. But a few had not clouded. Those medals that had not clouded were struck from proof dies. The flips used are different, so it is my assumption that one type of flip is less stable, resulting in clouding from PVC contamination. But that is not the only difference from the proof-like medals.

On the proof dies, the frosting is whiter than on the proof-likes. This is a subtle difference that probably would have gone unnoticed had the proof-like medals not developed the hazy appearance.

While the proof and proof-like obverse dies are indistinguishable to my eye, there is a definite difference in the reverse dies. The proof-like dies have a metal statement in the clouds (.999 Fine). The proof medals carry this statement stamped into the plain edge. So, the medals without the metal statement on the reverse are from proof dies.

But the varieties do not stop there. There is a reeded edge variety (reeded like the proof-like medals) and a plain edge variety (plain like the proofs, but without the edge lettering).



Enlarged

Therefore, there are three varieties of the 1993 one ounce silver medals packaged in proof-like holders.

A set of these three medals can be found in our April auction, lot number 224. A list of the Alaskana lots are included with this newsletter.

On a recent visit to Anchorage, I spoke with Mike Roebuck at the Alaska Mint. He confirmed that the necessary care was not taken in preparation and packaging of the medals at that time (only the second year of the Mint's contract to produce the state medals).

I also asked Mike about the  $\frac{1}{4}$  ounce silver medals from 1994 with the metal statement  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce gold. He said that they were "trial strikes." When the dies were being set up and adjusted, they would strike some  $\frac{1}{4}$  ounce silver medals to get the right pressure to strike the gold medals. These were overlooked, not destroyed and shipped as normal  $\frac{1}{4}$  ounce silver medals.

Also while in Anchorage, I visited the Anchorage Museum. Currently, they have a special exhibit on Ernest Shackleton. Very impressive.

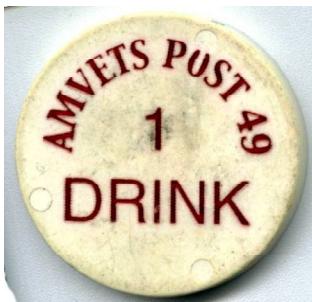
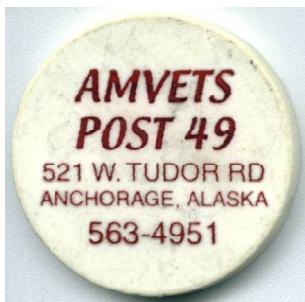
I just can't resist the automated elongated cent machines when I travel. They are inexpensive numismatic souvenirs. The Anchorage Museum's contribution to my collection is to the right.



# FOR THE RECORD

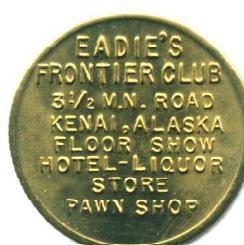


**ANCHORAGE:** American Legion Jack Henry Post 1, Good for one drink. 34mm, brass and aluminum (submitted by Roy's Coins).



**ANCHORAGE:** Amvets Post 49, 1 drink. Dark red on white plastic, 38mm, 4mm thick (submitted by Roy's Coins).

**EAGLE RIVER:** Subway, Bear Paw Festival Parade, Free sandwich w/purchase of one - equal or lesser value, good during July. Black on wood (submitted by Roy's Coins).



**ANCHORAGE:** The Great Alaskan Bush Company, Two Bush Dollars. Brass, 39mm (submitted by Roy's Coins).

**KENAI:** Eadie's Frontier Club, Kenai Bicentennial, 1791 to 1991. Brass, 32mm (submitted by Roy's Coins).



**ANCHORAGE:** Bob Lewis, Shedd-Brown. Black on wood (submitted by Roy's Coins).

**SITKA:** Ernie's Bar, bifacial. Gold on yellow and Gold on red (submitted by Roy's Coins).

**DOUGLAS:** Louie's, Rain Check. Gold on light blue plastic, 40mm (submitted by Roy's Coins).

**SITKA:** Ernie's, bifacial. Gold on green and gold on blue (submitted by Roy's Coins).

224 **1993 State of Alaska Proof-like Medals - 3 different!** 1) The "standard" proof-like medal has a reeded edge and a fineness statement in the clouds. 2) Reeded edge, but appears struck from proof dies. The frosted areas are "whiter," and the reverse does not have the fineness statement. 3) This appears to be a proof as #2. It has a plain edge, but does not have the lettering as do the proofs. All sold by the Alaska Mint as proof-like. From what we have in stock, the #2 seems to be the rarest. 150.00

225 **Official State of Alaska 1/10 Ounce Gold Medal**, 1993. Only 298 of these were minted with the popular wolf obverse (Priscilla would be happy!). A rather scarce piece of Alaska history. The last price we saw from the Alaska Mint lists these at \$350.00. 125.00+

226 **Alaska Book:** "Klondike, The Chicago Record's Book for Gold Seekers," 1897. One of the most popular Alaska books. This is the book that one needed to read before heading to the Klondike. Chapters include: 1) Where the gold is found; 2) How to get to the Klondike Country; 7) U.S. Mining Laws; 8) Canadian Mining Laws; 14) Professor Spurr's Report; 23) Game in the Klondike Country and many more. Includes 8 maps and 16 illustrations. Nice pictorial cover showing some wear, 413 pages. 50.00+

227 **Alaska Book:** "Alaska and the Klondike Gold Fields," by A.C. Harris, 1897. Another popular book for prospective Klondike stampeders. A nice pictorial cover and 528 pages. The condition of this book is not so great, a bit fragile, but still readable. Twenty-two chapters packed with information. 75.00+

228 **Rex Beach Books:** A total of eight books, all from the "Yukon Edition," circa 1915. Four are published by Collier (The Ne'er Do Well, The Net, The Silver Horde and The Iron Trail) and four are published by Harpers (Rainbow's End, Winds of Change, The Barrier and The Auction Block). They are all in good readable condition. Included in this lot is "an imperfect but fairly correct identification of people and places" mentioned in The Iron Trail being based upon the construction of the Copper River & North Western Railroad. Eight books. 140.00+

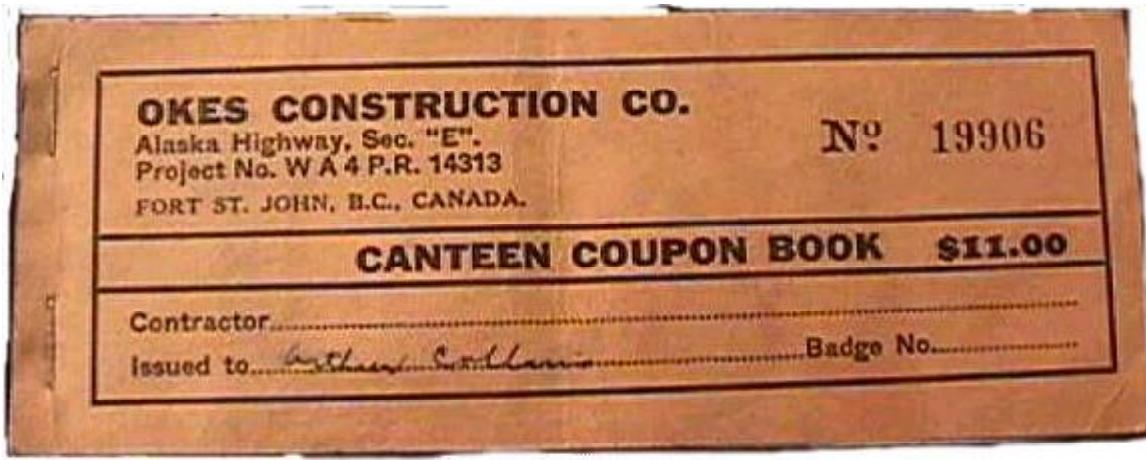
229 **Almost Alaska Book!:** "In Search of a Siberian Klondike," by Vanderlip and Hulbert, 1903. With gold rushes all over Alaska and Yukon, it was only logical that there should be gold in Siberia. Twenty-two chapters, 315 pages, with about 48 illustrations. Ex-library with some problems, but still a decent, readable copy. 50.00

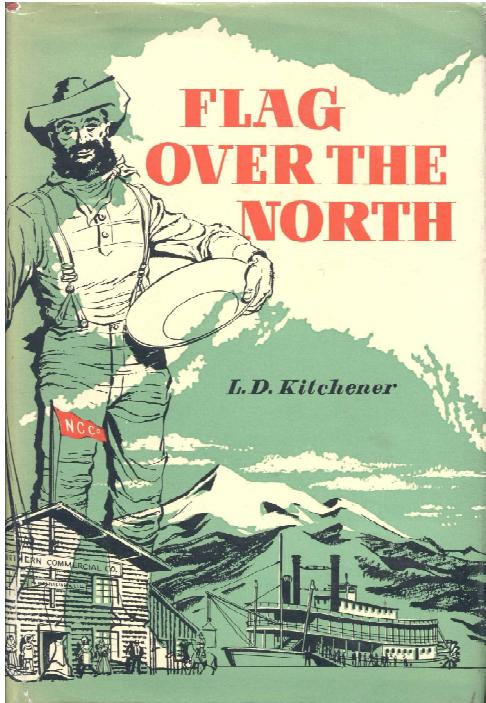
## FOR THE RECORD,<sup>cont.</sup>



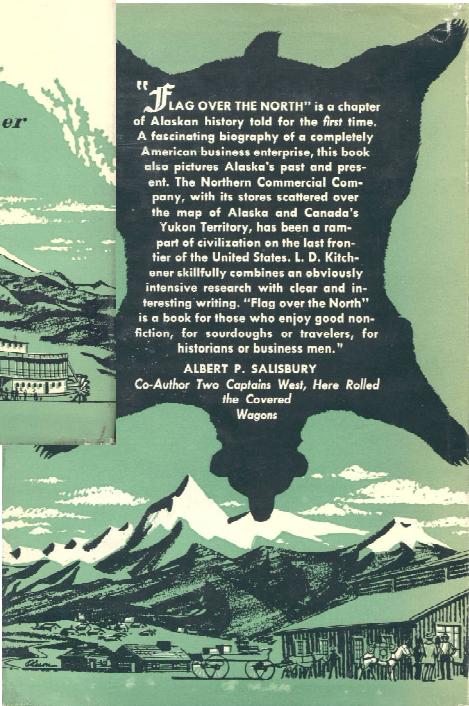
**ANCHORAGE:** Merlin's Arcade and Games. No cash value. Brass, 25mm (submitted by Roy's Coins).

**FORT ST. JOHN, B.C.:** Okes Construction Co., \$11.00 Canteen Coupon Book, Alaska Highway, Sec. "E". Cover below, coupons to right. Black and red on tan. (eBay)





With dust jacket, some wear - \$55.00  
 No dust jacket - \$45.00  
 Prices are **postpaid**.



## FLAG OVER THE NORTH

### A HISTORY OF THE NORTHERN COMMERCIAL CO.

We recently purchased a large collection of Alaska books, and there were several copies of this Alaska classic.

Written in 1954, it begins with the sale of Alaska by Russia to the United States. The book follows the history of the predecessors of the Northern Commercial Company, the formation of the Company, and then its contributions to the development of the Territory.

You can follow the N.C. Co. as it opens stores up and down the Yukon and the Kuskokwim Rivers and join the gold rushes to Dawson, Nome and Fairbanks.

"Flag Over the North" is more than a history of the N.C. Co. It is, because of exploits of the Company, a history of Alaska.

### FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DISCOVERY OF THE FAIRBANKS GOLD FIELDS.

In 2003, during the Centennial of the gold discovery, the Pedro family, from Italy and those in the U.S. visited Fairbanks, and purchased every example of this medal we had in stock at \$18 to \$22 each. We made a fortunate purchase, and can offer these at \$10 each, plus \$3 per order for postage and handling.



### STAPLER OF YOUR DREAMS

We have used the same stapler for over 25 years, keeping a pair of Vise-Grips handy to flatten the staples. No more!

The Max Flat Clinch stapler eliminates the need to flatten the staples because it does it for you. Full size, uses standard staples. This is a great product.

As I type this, we are waiting on a shipment. Suggested retail is \$27.50, and we will cover the postage!

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**AUCTION: TO BE HELD AT 7:00 P.M., APRIL 17TH IN FAIRBANKS.** These are just the Alaskan items. If you want a complete listing, please call or write to the address above. Phone bids may be called in between 10:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., Monday to Saturday (noon on the day of the auction). Bids will also be accepted at the e-mail address above.

**ALASKANA** **ESTIMATE**

207	<b>Alaska Token: Anchorage</b> , Canteen Bar, 12½¢ in trade, B-10a. Native Copper, nice pictorial with harbor scene and mountains in the background. About VF.	75.00
208	<b>Alaska Token: Anchorage</b> , Cheechako Tavern, 12½¢ in trade, B-11bi. EF or so.	25.00
209	<b>Alaska Token: Chatanika</b> , N.G. Cox, Dempsey Hotel, 25¢ and \$1 in trade, B-3, a and c. Both are "dug" tokens, but not bad with all legends legible. Chatanika is almost a ghost town, and now famous for their annual "outhouse" race.	60.00
210	<b>Alaska Token: Fairbanks</b> , Brown Derby, 5¢ in trade, B-10a, AU.	50.00
211	<b>Alaska Token: Fairbanks</b> , Fairview Hotel Pool Hall, B-19b, "dug." Overvalued in the catalogue.	25.00
212	<b>Alaska Token: (Flat or Iditarod)</b> , Al Currie, The Branch, 25¢ in trade, B-1a, Fine or better with nice even wear. A very scarce token.	350.00+
213	<b>Alaska Token: Juneau</b> , San Francisco Bakery, good for one loaf of bread, B-65a, lustrous EF-AU. One of the forgotten "pictorials" in the Alaska tokens series. This token features a sheaf of wheat and sickle.	45.00
214	<b>Alaska Token: Kukak Bay</b> , Hemrich Packing Co., \$10 in trade, B-1gi. Counterstamped as are all we have seen, appears to have been dug, otherwise Fine or better. Another example recently sold on eBay for \$667.12 A scarce token.	350.00+
215	<b>Alaska Tokens: McCarthy</b> , Golden Hotel, 12½¢ and 25¢ in trade, B-2a and b, brightly cleaned. Neat oval tokens from this historic mining town. These are not as scarce as the book indicates. A fair price for the pair would be...50.00	50.00
216	<b>Alaska Token: Nome</b> , North Pole Bakery, 5¢ on meal ticket, B-39a, dug. While not attractive because of some dark staining, all legends are legible. Quite scarce.	150.00
217	<b>Alaska Token: Seward</b> , The Northern, Native Copper, 12½¢ in trade, B-8a, <b>oval</b> variety. The rarest of the Seward Native Coppers. Quite worn, VG-Fine, but not bad.	200.00+
218	<b>Alaska Token: Seward</b> , The Palace, 12½¢ in trade, B-9c, lustrous AU. Most tokens just have a business name and denomination. This one proclaims "Seward, Alaska, the Gateway to the Interior."	75.00
219	<b>Alaska Token: Wacker</b> , Wacker Bus Line, 10-Cent Fare, B-T1a. Nice, thick cardboard showing only the slightest corner crease, some softening wear. Let's call it VF. A scarce piece.	50.00+
220	<b>Pacific Steamship Company</b> , pass for 1925, issued to Mrs. J.W. White and son. "Good only between Pacific Coast Ports including <b>Alaska</b> ." Not quite a token, but almost! Passes are a highly desired collectible and quite scarce.	100.00
221	<b>"Tofty" or "Bobby Miller" One Ounce Gold Medal</b> , 1978. Some years ago, we compiled a list of all known gold and platinum medals struck with Alaska themes between 1959 and the late 1990s. Not including the Alaska Mint issues, we identified approximately 42 issues which, all things considered, is surprisingly few. This medal has a map of Alaska on the obverse with Tofty prominently listed in the center. These were made to the order of Bobby Miller, a local gold miner. Serial #120, stamped in the right obverse field. Over the years, we have tried to assemble a collection of these different types of gold medals, but they are tough.	500.00
222	<b>Alaska Medals:</b> Two one ounce silver medals relating to <b>Valdez</b> . The first is "Port of the Supertankers." Nice image of an oil tanker on the obverse; Alaska flag, mountains flowers on the reverse. The second is "Exxon Valdez The Ship from Hell." A not so nice oil tanker with skull above and oil leaking on the obverse; map of Alaska and date "March 24, 1989, Alaska's Oil Spill, Black Friday" on the reverse. Interesting contrast! Two medals.	50.00
223	<b>State of Alaska Silver Medal</b> , 1989. This was the first year for the State medal program with a polar bear design by competition winner Doug Lindstrand. This is a mint state one ounce medal, housed in a sterling silver bezel with a sterling silver chain. It is becoming difficult to locate these original medals.	50.00+